

John Santone
4838 Hartland Parkway
Lexington, KY 40515

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

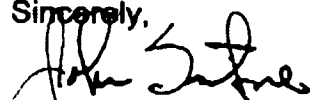
I would like to express my opinion that the last three years of lawsuits against Microsoft were wrong and unjustified. Microsoft has made huge contributions to our society by creating jobs and making technological breakthroughs. They have been the cornerstone of the IT Industry and made using computers easy.

I find it ironic that the intention of this case at the outset was to protect consumer rights, but the terms of the settlement only reflect the lawmakers' and politicians' concern for competitors of Microsoft. Under the terms of the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to not retaliate against any computer makers or software developers who promote or develop products that compete with Windows operating system products. They have also agreed to disclose their interfaces.

Now, I am not quite sure how those concessions and the other ones will help consumers, but I can very clearly see the benefit for other software conglomerates. I do know that I would rather this settlement become reality than risk further litigation. I think our IT sector and economy cannot withstand having one of our industry leaders on the sidelines now in this recession. I request that your office finalize the agreement.

Lastly, I believe this litigation sent the wrong signal to an industry that was responsible for creating a great deal of the economic prosperity that existed this past decade. You cannot expect companies to invest in new technology if they can expect to be sued for not inventing a design (e.g. bundling browser w/operating system) that suits the Justice Department. Please remember that IBM designed the OS/2 operating system, and AT&T developed UNIX. Both of these giant companies had every opportunity to beat out Microsoft, but they both failed because the Windows design produced a superior product.

Sincerely,



John Santone